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Subject: March By the Way

Date: Fri, Mar 2, 2012 12:45 pm

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March 2012



Feature article...

One Great Hour of Sharing
Sunday, March 18, 2012

The theme for One Great Hour of Sharing continues from last year's theme, "Sharing Brings Joy," but adds the focus of bringing joy to "Others." Our first thoughts about how our gifts bring joy to others most likely focus on the tangible results of our sharing:



- a family displaced by natural disaster or political unrest is grateful to receive food, shelter, and the comfort of a safe place to begin to rebuild their lives
- anyone who had to walk miles to get water for their family, smiles as a well is dug in their community, bringing clean water within reach
- a farmer whose harvest succumbed to the storms, is thankful when offered food, water, and new seed, helping her to make it through to the next harvest

Of course, when we "sow bountifully" by giving to others, we reap bountifully by sharing in the joy that our gifts bring to those whose basic needs are met. Across social and economic lines that should have separated them, followers of Christ reached out to support one another. The awareness of another's need allowed them to recognize their own abundance as a gift from God, one they were called to share.

This year, as you make your offering to One Great Hour of Sharing, remember the joy your gift offers others, is hope. Sow bountifully and share abundantly, knowing that you are not only helping change the statistics, you are helping change lives. One Great Hour of Sharing is one of the special offerings supported by the United Church of Christ. Please give generously.

*Excerpt from UCC appeal letter.
BTW editors: Lori Prang and Kathleen S. Kaska*

Upcoming Dates

Evening Bible Study
Thu. Mar. 8, 7 pm

Comparative Religions
Sun. Mar. 11, 3-4:30 pm

Council Meeting
Tue. Mar. 13, 7 pm

One Great Hour of Sharing
Sun. Mar. 18, 9:30 am

A Book & A Prayer Book Club
Mon. Mar. 26, 7 pm

Morning Bible Study
Wednesdays, 10 am

Palm Sunday Service
Sun. Apr. 1, 9:30 am

Good Friday Service
Fri. Apr. 6, 1 pm
Immanuel United Church of Christ, Bartlett

Easter Sunday Service
Sun. Apr. 8, 9:30 am

Talent Show
Sat. Apr. 21, 7 pm

Pastor's message...

Lent is the time we walk with Jesus to the event that will define His life and ours as Christians.



So in this Lenten season the winds of God are blowing and soon the springtime kites will be flying. The grip of winter will loosen and the outdoors will beckon. Do you remember the days of standing out in a field and challenging your friends with whose kite will fly highest? It was a time to experiment with the bigger kites, different sizes and geometric configurations and all types and lengths of string. Letting out the string in a proper pace would enable the kite to climb higher and higher and higher.

But, we might reason that if the kite flies well tethered to the string, how well will it soar if it is turned loose? So you cut the string and the kite is loose. However we find that in the freedom of being loose we forfeit the freedom to fly and your kite takes a tailspin toward the ground.

Could it be that people are like kites wanting to be cut loose from the bondage of the string, only to discover the truth that there is no such thing as an unmastered life? A balloon floating in the air is not free, but captive to every passing breeze. A ship with no propeller or rudder is captive to the power of the waves. A person free to yield to every passing passion becomes not free but one captured by the dictates of one's own selfish desires. Goethe wrote: "No one is more a slave than the one who thinks him or herself to be free without being so." True freedom is not doing what one wants, when one wants. Freedom in Christ is freeing the mind from following the herd, from a need to hate and despise, from a need to condemn and judge. Being tethered to Christ and Christ-like virtues, is being free to live, laugh, love and to be in the greatness of what we understand is God.

Thomas a Kempis said: *"One who has denied oneself is exceedingly free and secure."* It takes discipline to be free to do something well, whether in music, business, sports, or life itself. The boxer Joe Frasier said it well! *"The thing about it is, you got to do your own roadwork. Nobody gonna' do it for you. Everybody's got some kind of roadwork preparation...If you don't have the roadwork done, nobody can help you."*

There is yet a price to be paid to be free, a challenge that must be met.

As we travel down the road to Jerusalem with Jesus in our Lenten journey we ask who shall be our master, our example, our savior? To whom shall we be tethered? Our Lenten prayer could well be: "Make me a captive Lord, and then I shall be free."

Have a very reflective Lent. *Rev. Ron W. Purser*

Worship schedule...

Mar. 4



Church Leadership

Pastor

Reverend Ron W. Purser

Pastor Emeritus

Reverend Dr. Don Heinrich

Director of Music Organist

Larry Dieffenbach

Moderator

Ann McLaughlin

Moderator-elect

Wally Setlock

Office Manager

Lori Prang



Flowers & Fellowship

Provide flowers to decorate our altar table or host a fellowship hour after worship as a wonderful way to recognize a special occasion or to remember someone special. Sign-up sheets are

2nd Sunday in Lent

Holy Communion

Sermon: "...Sails are to a Ship, that Wings are to a Bird"

Scripture: John 15:1-11

Theme: Continuing the "I Am" Metaphors of Jesus

Mar. 11

3rd Sunday in Lent

Sermon: "Doors mean nothing unless we use them; So go in and out and find pasture"

Scripture: John 10:1-10

Theme: Continuing the "I Am" Metaphors of Jesus

Mar. 18

Sunday Service

Guest Minister: Rev. Nancy Schatzeder

Mar. 25

Sunday Service

Guest Minister: Rev. Nancy Schatzeder

Special events...

Home Grown Talent Show

One Night Only: Saturday, April 21, 2012

Got talent? We want YOU!

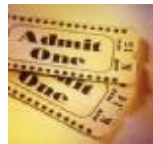
Call or email to get in the queue...

Jane Shelton at 630.584.7055,

janelshelton8@gmail.com, or Anne

Bouchard at 630.545.9645,

anne.bouchard1@gmail.com



Activities...

Youth Group Retreat

April 13, 14 & 15

Covenant Harbor Bible Camp in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin (6 grade through High School)

Information letter will be sent out very soon...Join the fun!



A Book & A Prayer Book Club

Our newly formed group has read two books since its formation in January 2012. The first was a fiction novel about a multi-cultural prayer group and the second was an autobiography by Tim Tebow, *Through My Eyes*. Our readers enjoyed hosting and meeting our guests and visitors! We're looking forward to many more Christian reads and discussions. Come join us as we explore all different

posted in the Parish Hall, and a reminder call will come from the Church Office so you can note what should be listed in the Sunday Bulletin.

(Open dates are noted below.)

Altar Flowers

Mar. 4

Jan Marchese

Mar. 11

Gladys Stevenson

Mar 18

Judy Hopkins

Mar. 25

Hochstetter Family

Fellowship Hour

Mar. 4

Jan Marchese

Mar. 11

Nancy & Rik Alex

Mar 18

(open)

Mar. 25

(open)



walks of life and faith with Jesus through this new fellowship group. We meet on the 4th Monday of every month at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. Many thanks to Kristen Thornton for creating a Book Club page on the LHC web site. Find info about the books and meetings at www.littlehomechurch.org/bookclubnew.html.

Keep connected with the Book Club, get the latest details, and see what our guests are saying about the group at www.meetup.com/LHC-Wayne-IL-A-Book-and-a-Prayer-Readers

Next Book: Bad Girls of the Bible, by Liz Curtis Higgs
Next Meeting: March 26, 7 pm, Parish Hall
Contact: Kathy Haben, 630.876.0620, khaben@att.net

Choir

Many thanks to Tom Havel and the Bartlett High School Vivaldi Ensemble for sharing their music in our worship service on February 19, 2012.



March 15, 7 pm

Mark your calendars for a free concert in our sanctuary featuring the complete Bartlett High School Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Tom Havel. The concert will feature an evening of serenades by Mozart and Tchaikovsky. Dress casual and enjoy a night out in Wayne.

We have a number of meaningful anthems prepared for the worship services during Lent and Easter:

April 1 - Palm/Passion Sunday - The Choir will present "We Were There," a cantata that tells the story of Holy Week. It will feature solos, readings, and a full choir. The children will also sing that morning with the adults on an anthem entitled - "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!"

April 5 - Maundy Thursday - Join us for a night of communion and meditative music.

April 8 - Easter Sunday - The choir will sing some special anthems accompanied by the handbells and we will finish the service with G.F. Handels' "Hallelujah Chorus" from Messiah.

Adult Choir: Practice on Wednesdays at 7 pm.
Bell Choir: Members will be contacted with practice and performance dates/times.
Children's Choir: Practice during Sunday school each week.

College Care Update!

Starting last year, a group of parents and grandparents got together a few times each semester to pack care boxes for our college-aged students. We have made two shipments this school year: one in time for Halloween and one for Valentine's Day. We will have one more mailing before the end of the year. We also include a copy of *By the Way* and personal notes. Shipping costs are covered by the Brent Alex Memorial Fund. Anyone can participate! Contact Lori in the church office or Anne Bouchard if you want to join the fun. Here are a couple thank you notes the church has received:

Thank you grandparents [Rik and Nancy Alex] & Little Home by the

note:

"Spring Ahead!"

Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour for Sunday, March 11.

Easter Flowers

Orders are now being taken for lilies, tulips and hyacinths for \$10 each. Orders are due by April 1.

You may indicate if they are in memory or in honor of someone.

Contact the church office or use the order form provided in the Sunday Bulletin.

Pulpit Associate and Ushers

Interested in serving as a pulpit associate or an usher for Sunday Service?
 Coordinator,
 Rich Doerr, invites you to contact the office and be added to the list!

Wayside Church for the INTERNATIONAL Care Package :)

Thomas Davison
Universitat Ramon Llull
SBA Dean's Advisory Council Member
Loyola University Chicago

* * *

Dear Little Home Church by the Wayside,
Thank you SO MUCH for the care package you sent me. All the treats are delicious and it was nice to find out about what's been going on in the church in the By the Way.

I miss everyone and thanks again!
Corinne Thornton :)

Gardening Angels & Handy Devils

Spring is in the air?! And we're making a ToDo List for the upcoming Work Days to be scheduled twice a month (one weekday & one Saturday) starting in April. We'll spruce up our little church, both inside and out. More details to follow soon.

Education...

Comparative Religion Series

Presented by Rev. Ron Purser on the following Sundays at 3 pm in the Parish Hall.
Jan. 15 - Judaism
Feb. 19 - Christianity out of Judaism
Mar. 11 - Islam



Morning Bible Study

Presented by Rev. Ron Purser on Wednesday mornings at 10 am in his office. The group will begin study of the book of Genesis. All are welcome. No preparation is required.

Evening Bible Study

Presented by Rev. Nancy Schatzeder on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 7-8:30 pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome. No preparation is required.



Children's Sunday School

Meets each Sunday in the Guild House. Children will be called during the service when it is time to join their teachers. All children, preschool age through 8th grade, are welcome.

Ministry news...

Evangelism Ministry

Remember to share a smile with old friends and new faces you see at Little Home Church...it's the single most



we noticed!

Jen Gatsch has been busy removing rust stains from the bathrooms at the Peterson house. Thanks, Jen for helping to get the house ready for sale.

*

Gary Estes has also been busy with the Peterson house, obtaining bids for cleaning, carpet cleaning, painting etc, legal document preparation and a new plat of survey preparation.
Thanks, Gary!

*

Art Zwemke has done a fantastic job facilitating the formation of the Perpetual Fund committee. Thank you to Dave Poole, David Sterner, Rik Alex and Carol Berger for accepting this challenging opportunity to serve our church.

*

Thank you to everyone who so generously responded to the special request for shampoo and toilet paper needed for the Feeding Northwest DuPage food pantry!

effective way to send the message, "Welcome!" Also, a big "thank you" to the 19 Hosts who have committed to help with our new member efforts. It's a great way to help people become connected to our church community.

(Smiling faces pictured: Ardis Redmond, Norm Miller and Judy Hopkins)

Stewardship Ministry

Pledge Update: We have received 71 pledges for 2012. This surpasses the 66 received for 2011 and the 67 for 2010. The amount pledged for 2012 totals \$165,005.00. This is an increase over the \$160,210.00 pledged for 2011 and the \$164,931.00 for 2010. So the good news is we are up in both number of pledges and pledge amounts for this year. Thank you so very much. This also means the church will fall short of the tight budget for 2012, and that will need to be addressed. But for now please take some time to celebrate the increases. Thank God for this and so many other blessings in our personal and church life.

Outreach Ministry

Thank you to everyone who contributed paper products and shampoo for Feeding Northwest DuPage. "We were able to take a car full to the food pantry at Resurrection. The families, site coordinator and volunteers are so grateful to our Little Home Church donors. Thank you for your generosity." *Suzanne Setlock*



Congregational Life Ministry

Plans are underway for the LHC "Home Grown Talent Show" to be held on Saturday, April 21, 2012. Got Talent? Contact Jane Shelton or Anne Bouchard for more information. Come join the fun!

etc...

Also...

Welcome a Stranger & Help Change the World!

Now is the time to consider the possibility of hosting an AFS exchange student for the 2012-13 school year or semester. Students from over 50 countries are hoping for a host family to choose them as a family member for this next year. Would you consider opening your heart and home to one of these adventuresome young people and offering them and your family a life expanding opportunity to learn firsthand about another person and culture?



Sunday Fellowship was very pretty and festive with a Mardi Gras theme provided by Kathy Thorne.

AFS Intercultural Programs is a nonprofit student exchange organization whose mission is to work towards the creation of a more just and peaceful world by providing international and intercultural learning experiences to individuals, families, schools, and communities through a global volunteer partnership. AFS, formerly known as American Field Service, began as a volunteer ambulance service during World War I. Today, AFS continues to work towards the healing of the nations by facilitating student exchange with an ever diversified list of countries, including countries of the Middle East and former Soviet Union. "And the

Special Emergency Packets provided by the Wayne Fire Department are now available for seniors in the church office.

leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations..." Our hope is that these students will become the leaves of the tree that help heal the nations.

If you are interested in learning more about hosting or volunteering with AFS or becoming an exchange student yourself, please attend an info night March 13, 7 to 8:30 pm at Geneva Public Library, or contact Leslie Surta at lsurta@comcast.net or by phone at 630.738.3526, or fill out an interest form on the web at www.afsusa.org.

Provided by Leslie Surta



Our love & prayers...

Recently hospitalized or ill:

Joyce Cox
Elaine Williford
Shirley House
Barb MacCarthy
Corky Hamill



Our sympathies to the family and friends of Margaret Ball who passed away on February 23. She was 90 years old.

Congratulations to Rita and Raymond Quirk on the birth of their son, Hunter Raymond, born December 10, 2011.

Service men & women

Samantha Prang
Greg Haben
Ryan Reed



Congratulations to Samantha Prang on her recent promotion to Army Specialist!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Please let us know if you would like to add an email address to our list.

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630.584.4013 fax 630.584.8427 lhhome@aol.com Pastor Ron cell: 630.886.5677

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